

SHOCHIKU

KABUKI PLAY

" SHIN - SARA - YASHIKI "

TSUKI NO AMAGASA "

BY KAWATAKE MOKUAMI

TWO ACTS: TWO SCENES

TO BE PRESENTED BY SHOROKU, SHIKAN,
MOSHIO AT SHINBASHI ENBUJO-THEATRE
FROM AUG. 5, TO 1948

ACT I

Scene of Benten Shrine:

C A S T

Urato Juuzaemon (Chief retainer)

Urato Monsoburo

Iwakami Tenzo

Otsuta

(A beloved concubine of the Lord.)

(Whole stage shows an inner garden in a Daimyo's house. To the right a Benten shrine with stone lanterns in front of it.)

(A gong is sounded. Tenzo comes out of the stage passage with a lox in his hand.)

Tenzo: As Madam Tsuta has made a pretty progress in her lessons in the tea ceremony lately, the lord left her a tea-cup of his family treasure. The cup would make so much money if I could get it for myself. So I have watched for it for a long time and got it just now as no one was in her room. They all were out to look for her pet cat. However as it is dangerous to keep it by myself, I put this here under this shrine, and if she would give all her heart to me, I would give this back to her. But when I couldn't get her heart I would lay this to blame her for my broken heart.

Any way I must see this now though

I expect the tea-cup in this.

But I didn't see it by myself.

(Opening the box, he takes out a
tea-cup, and looks it by the light
of stone-lantern.)

Oh, here I see the famous tea-cup of Ido.

(A tortoise-shell cat followed

by a red cat runs out and flees to

the right through Tenzo's

thigh. At the shock Tenzo drops the tea-cup.

It is broken into two pieces.

Very much surprised Tenzo also drops a letter.

The cat catches it by it's mouth and runs
away to the right.

The red one runs in after it.)

Oh, my dear! But the cat's startled me too
much to drop the precious cup.

How about the cup.

(Taking it up.) Great Heavens!

It's broken in two pieces!

But I have to find some good ways to use
this pieces.

(Looking around him he puts the pieces
in the box and wraps it with
cloth.

Then he puts it under the floor
of shrine. The sound of some one
approaching is heard.

So he takes his shelter on the right.

With a gong following song is sung)

"As the clouds covers the moon

No light reaches here

In the garden in silence

Only the croak of frogs

In the pond sound sadly

And drive me into some

Memory of spring gone away.

(Otsuta makes her appearance

while the above song is sung in common dress
from the stage passage.)

Tsuta:

Time flies like an arrow as they say.

It's two years since I have taken my business
here, though I never thought I have
stayed here so long. I have nothing
to worry here while I have been here all
through the year.

But now one thing makes me trouble.

That is my pet tortoise-shell cat

has been out for two days and nights.

So I am looking for her and I fancy

I have heard her near the Benten Shrine
just now. I will look there.

"Cool breezes blows softly

On bush-clovers

pouring dew on them."

(Otsuta comes to the stage and looks
around it.)

Otsuta: It might be another cat.

"Piercing to her in dim light,

Tenzo comes out with an

air of satisfaction."

Tenzo: New!

Tsuta: Oh, it news.

Tenzo: Yes, he news for his burning passion.
Here is the cat.

(Tenzo appears before Otsuta.)

Tsuta: Oh! Mr. Tenzo! Are you there?

I never expect you here.

Tenzo: As I saw you out looking for your pet
cat, I followed you.

(Tsuta tries to run away)

Tsuta: For what?

Tenzo: You are too bad to ask me that.

I have loved you for these many days,
and expected to get any good chance to
tell my love to you. I have asked your
waitress Onagi just now by Shinmei
Shrine to hand you my letter in vain.

But I've caught you here now.
Goddess Benten must smile on me.
I am not handsome like my lord,
so I never imagine that you
can love me. But I must ask you to hear
me for my two years' love.
Won't give your kind heart to me?
(He acts improperly.)

Tsuta: It's not true that you have loved
me of humble-birth.

Tenzo: It's true. I love you with my whole heart.

Tsuta: I can't hear you in spite of my thanks
for your love.

Tenzo: Do you say you can't? Why?

Tsuta: I can't say why.
You should think of yourself.

Tenzo: What do you say?

Tsuta: I am sensitive not to feed even a male-cat
at my position as my lord's
concubine.

You must be careful, too, for you are the son
of my lord's steward. If you would see some
one behaving something wrong you should give
him lesson. You should act yourself carefully.

Tenzo: I have no words to give you back.
Nevertheless I must persuade you
to listen me.
I know well that it is not right to make
love to you or it means undutiful to
my lord. I never mind what kind
of punishment would fall upon me
after ~~if~~ I could get your heart only.
Only once is enough for me.
Won't you hear me?

Tsuta: That makes you gratify, I know.
But how about myself?
It brings disgrace upon my name,
They should blame me ungrateful for my
low-birth. It's great sorrow for me,
you see. How can I hear you?
(As she says decidedly, Tenzo catches her
by her sleeves.)

Tenzo: Then do you say you can't give your heart
to me at all?

Tsuta: How can I give you my heart to you?
No need to repeat.

(He holds her more tightly as she
is about to go.)

Tenzo: Since you are so, I must force you to make
love with me since I have told you my heart.

Tsuta: Oh, I must go since you make up your mind to ----.

Tenzo: No, you must not. I never miss you.
(She shakes him away and tries to get rid of him.
But at last Tenzo catches Otsuta in his arms.)

Tsuta: Help! Help! A rascal is here!

Tenzo: No one should be here.

Tsuta: Isn't there no body?

(As Tenzo tries to make her mouth shut, she gets rid of him. Tenzo snatches her sash and draws it to him.
So it is untied.
But at last she is drawn up to him and lost her consciousness by some shock at her side. Tenzo is frightened so much and is about to set up her. Just then Monsaburo runs out of the stage passage. Seeing him out Tenzo flees into the right. At the stage passage Monsaburo.)

Monsaburo: Something strange should happen at Benten Shrine, for I heard a girl was calling help.
I must see the case by myself.
(He comes to the stage and sees Tsuta is lying there.)
Oh, it gets dark as the clouds come out.
(He takes down the lantern and lights the lying girl.
He is very much astonished as she is Otsuta.)

Oh, my! She is my lord's concubine.

What happened to her?

(He puts down the lantern and raises her.)

Mrs. Tsuta:

(But she doesn't come back herself,

So he gets some water from the wash-hand stand
for her and gives it to her.

Tsuta regains her consciousness.)

Oh, do you come to yourself, Mrs. Tsuta?

Tsuta: Oh, you are there?

Mon: Urato Monsaburo is here beside you.

(Otsuta, looking him up, is pleased.)

Tsuta: Then, you saved me from my danger, didn't you?

Monsaburo: As I heard a girl was calling help,
I hurried up here and saw you fainted.
There should be something wrong.
What was the case?

Tsuta: As my pet cat has been away for these
two days, I was looking for it, and heard
his mew at Benten Shrine.
So I came here and met Mr. Tenzo.
He tried not only to make love to me,
but forced to. There you came and saved me.
I have much obliged to you.

Monsaburo: Oh, I see. Mr. Tenzo tried to force you?
But nothing to worry now since I am here.

Tsuta: Now I must tell my lord what
the wicked planning to usurp my lord's house.

Mon: To usurp my lord's house? It's
terrible. And what is they planning?

Tsuta: I am telling you.
(The light is blown out.)

Mon: Oh, winds blow so hard.

Tsuta: And blows out the light.

Mon: As it gets dark unexpectedly,

Tsuta: We must not stay here any longer lest
we should be wondered.

Mon: Yes. And you must hurry to tell the
conspiracy to the lord.
(The gong. Tenzo comes out again and takes
up Otsuta's sash.)

Mon :
Tsuta : Oh?

(They are frightened.)

Tenzo: Don't move!
(Jog! Otsuta looks for her sash.)

Tenzo catches her. Seeing her Monsaburo draws Tenzo away and tells her to go. But she does not dare to go leaving her sash and tries to snatch her sash struggling with Tenzo. There Juzaemon comes out and joins to them. Then a dumb show goes on the stage. After a while Monsaburo and Otsuta come to the stage passage and Juzaemon sees them off.)

Juzaemon:

Ah, they might be ----

(As a stone is thrown by Tenzo, he makes a swift dodge. Both of Tsuta and Monsaburo retires from the stage passage Juzaemon sees them off.)

---- Curtain ----

----- ACT II -----

Scene of thrashing near the old well in the inner garden in Isobe House.

CAST : Isobe Shukeinosuke
Iwakani Godayu
Iwagami Tenzo
Several retainers & footmen. Otsuta
Otsuta's maid, Onagai
Two maids.

(Whole stage shows a scene of inner garden near the detached-room. To the right the stone fence for the old well is seen under a willow-tree. When curtain rises, Tenzo and Godayu are there with lanterns both sides of them.)

Godayu: How lucky we are! We could catch Otsuta and Monsaburo in our trap and drove them into the sin of illicit love.

Tenzo: They should be punished in same way.
However we must finish with Otsuta ahead of Monsaburo, for she knows our plot eavesdropping us at the sliding-screens, or we couldn't be at ease even in the night.

Godayu: I have been ready for every thing would be right. That is, at first we press sake on our lord and make him irritate ten times more than as he is, you see? Then we show him the sash you have looted and slander Monsaburo and Otsuta as if they are in illicit love. He must be angry with Otsuta and kill her by himself in his rage. This is my program, you see?

Tenzo: It's my regret to kill such a beautiful lady.

Godaiyu: It can't be helped. For she knows our conspiracy.

Tenzo: If Otsuta is killed tonight, Monsaburo should be ended in same way.

Godaiyu: And then we work on head retainer Juzaemon.

Tenzo: He should be ended at his house.

Godaiyu: After that I, Godaiyu would take his post.

Tenzo: Our great ambition stands at its start now successfully.

Godaiyu: Congratulation to us!

TAKEMOTO:

"When they are talking over their
conspiracy like this,

Their drunken Lord comes out in bad temper."
(Following Takemoto recital the lord comes out
followed by Tomozo who has lord's sword and
Denpei who has a cushion for his lord.

Godaiyu and Tenzo bows him. The lord sits on the cushion which Denpei spreads there.)

Lord: Are you here, both Iwakami?

Go: We have been here for a time.

Ten.: Waiting you.

Lord: Have you sent for Tsuta who has broken my family law?

Go.): Yes, we told her to hurry to see you.
Ten.):

Lord: Send for her once more right now.

Tenzo: I see.

"When they are about to go, Gonhichi appears.

Gon.: I have taken Mistress Otsuta as you have told me.

Go: Oh, our lord is waiting for her.

Tan: Hurry up to bring her here.

Gon.: I see.

"He comes back soon with Otsuta who looks so sad being charged falsely.

Seeing her sits far down from him to the left,

The Lord is irritated so much."

Lord: Tsuta, why did you go to Benten shrine tonight?

Tsuta: When I was looking for my cat as she has been out for these two days and nights, I fancied I heard her near Benten Shrine.

So I went there, my lord.

Lord: Were you there alone or some one with you?

Tsuta: Of course alone.

Lord: Why did you leave there your sash untied
in spite of your purpose of looking for cat?

Tsuta: -----

Lord: Here is it. Some one has brought it to me.

"As Otsuta drops her head.

Tenzo holds out her sash

Before her eyes."

Lord: Why don't you tell the truth?

"As he asked urgently,"

Tsuta: I am sorry to show you my sash left
there untied. It's not woman's way to take.
But Mr. Tenzo knows well the reason. So
ask him the detail, please.

Lord: What do you mean to ask to Tenzo?

Tenzo: Well, I will tell him as you say. As I saw
some one in Benten Shrine this evening, I
wondered who was there, and decided he
should be a rascal. So I ran there to catch
him. But I saw no rascal but a man with
a girl. They fled from me in darkness and
I missed them. However I found this sash
after them away. Therefore I told my lord
the case showing this sash.

(Otsuta is so much astonished with him.)

Tsuta: How can you talk like that, you liar? Don't you know why I don't want to tell the truth? It's only for you I never want to put you to shame. But I must tell the truth now. When I was out to look for my cat this evening, Mr. Tenzo followed me and caught me at Benten Shrine and tried to get my heart. But I didn't hear him. So he tried to force me untying my sash. So I cried for help to his astonishment, and got rid of my danger leaving my sash there.

Tenzo: Say, Mrs. Tsuta! You are a liar, indeed. Why can you make the story like that to trap me who is innocent? Are you confused as your misconduct with Monsaburo is laid bare? What an audacious girl you are with that nice-looking! You are too bad to trap this dutiful Tenzo.

Tsuta: It's you who tell a lie. You can make a story as I have nothing to vindicate myself.

Tenzo: You still talk like that. It's you who create the story. I am innocent.

"As he argued her down,

She could say nothing more in her tears."

Ge.: It's useless to try to justify yourself, for

Go.: It's useless to try to justify yourself, for
Monsaburo has told the case. .

Tsuta: What do you say? Are you sure it?

Go.: Yes. He told me the truth few minutes ago
when I called him to my home. At first he
insisted his innocence. But at last he
made his confession.

Tenzo: Since he told the fact you should do as well
as he has done.

(With wondering look.)

Tsuta: It's strange to hear that. What a poor man he is
to agree a false story. Couldn't he think of
my trouble?

It's too bad to him!

Tenzo: Now, there is no way to flee for you. Now
confess everything.

Tsuta: I can't confess what is not true even though
you threaten me to kill. It's better to be
killed innocent than to wear the disgraceful
name of misconduct to me.

Tenzo: You must confess. I will make you confess
the fact of your misconduct for our law's
sake. You must be tortured until you make
your confession.

"As he is about to torture her."

Lord: Wait a moment, Tenzo!

Ten: Yes.

Lord: Wait! I have got something to ask her.

Tenzo: I see.

Lord: Say Tsuta. Come here!

Tsuta: Yes.

Lord: Come here, I say!

Tsuta: Yes, sir.

Lord: Do you remember how you can get your present position? Not you only but your family, too? You were a daughter of poor fish-dealer. But I saw you served at a tea-house on the day of Shinmei Festival and you have been here in compliance with my request since then. I gave you 200 Rye for your outfit allowance and led your family into a better life giving them nice clothes and much money. Don't you remember that?

Tsuta: Yes, sure. How can I be ungrateful to you? And As my family, I say, they also are so grateful for their happy life which you gave them. They used to tell me about your great favour to them at every time I met them.

Lord: I don't mind how your family feel with me.

But you! Do you remember my heart to you?

Tsuta: Yes, I do remember.

Lord: How can you say that?
Tsuta: What do you say?
Lord: You disgraced my name with that word.
Tsuta: Disgraced your name? I never-----
Lord: Yes you did. At Benten Shrine you did misconduct with Monsaburo. You brute!

"He catches her by her neck."

As they say "Breeding counts more than birth," you are bred so splendidly at my house. So I was proud of you and believed you. But now you revealed your low birth. If the fact of the case would spread in the world they should blame me. It's great shame to me. It makes me to avoid every body's face among my relatives. You are the cause of my disgrace. Hateful you are!

"As pushes Tsuta, she bursts down."

Tenzo: Say, Tenzo! Hit her until she makes her confession.
Tenzo: All right.
Lord: I want some wine before them.
Go.: Say, every body, prepare for feast.
Tome: Yes, sir!

"Receiving the lord's order,
Tenzo comes down the ground.
And finds a broom-stick
Which the foot-man left there."

Taking it up he hits her."

(All the while, the pages bring out the things for feast. The lord takes some cups. Tenzo continues to hit.)

Tenzo: You are hateful hundred times more than my love.

No, I knock down you to let you confess your misconduct with Monsaburo.

"He knocks her severely with broom-stick.

But the lord never content with him."

Lord: Hit her more severely!

Tenzo: All right. It's his will, you see.

"He is too cruel to torture her so severely

But Otsuta bears him in great sorrow,

And makes her mind up not to confess.

What is not true at the risk of her life."

(There comes out a samurai. Seize with the box which Tenzo put under the Shrine.)

Sei: Wait a moment! Stop the torture!

Tenzo: What's the matter with you?

Sei: I found this box under the veranda of Benten Shrine, when I went to round there as Mr. Godaiyu told me. Look at this!

"As he holds out it."

(Godaiyu takes it up.)

Go.: Oh, this is the precious family treasure of our lord. Why was it there under the veranda of Benten Shrine?

(Otsuta was so much surprised.)

Tsuta: Why was it there? I wonder why. For I have kept it in small cupboard in my room so carefully as it is precious.

Tenzo: You know why it was there you intended to give it to Mensaburo at the chance of misconduct.

Tsuta: For what I -----

Tenzo: Shut up.

(He knocks her with broom-stick)

Tenzo: Look into the box whether the cup is inside or not.

Go.: Oh, you said that.

"Opening it, he is so much astonished."

Alas! its broken in two pieces.

(He takes out the pieces to their astonishment.)

Lord: Then, its her fault. She broke the precious treasure of my family. What a hateful woman she is!

"He stands up angrily,"

(He comes out on the veranda.)

Say, Tsuta! What for did you hide this tea-cup there?

Tsuta: I know nothing about it, too.
Lord: Oh! Shut up! Hay, Tenzo! Torture her again more severely.

Tenzo: All right.

"As Gonhichi and Kanze hold her on both sides,

Tenzo knocks her severely.

So she faints away at last.

(While his torture, Tsuta's maid Onagi and another maid try to prevent him.

And there is a small ~~z~~/ struggle among them.

But at last Tsuta faints away Godaiyu takes out poison and put it into a cup with some water from wash-hand stand.

Go: Say, Tenzo. She looks so tired. It's better to give her this water.

Tenzo: This water?

Go: This medicine.

Tenzo: I see.

Go: Give her soon.

Tenzo: O.K. (He helps her up)

Take this gift ~~xxx~~ to refresh yourself.

Tsuta: Thank you very much.

"She drinks off the cup not knowing it poison,

As she is so thirsty for severe torture.

And Iwakamis are so pleased with her.

But the lord was so irritated."

Tenzo: Now you must confess the fact.

Tsuta: No, I don't, since I am innocent.

Lord: Though you insist your innocence you can't be out of the crime for you have left your sash there. Moreover you broke the precious cup of my family treasure. You must be punished, you see? I will cut you for your great fault of breaking my fathers favourite cup, although you don't confess the fact.

"As the lord declares,

Otsuta gives up herself."

Tauta: It can't be helped for me, since you won't listen to my apology.

Go: She won't confess the fact at all for it's all the same to her to be killed in spite of her confession is out or not.

Tenzo: Certainly but we have kept her sash as an evidence. Beside it we have got this cup which shows her guilty. Now hurry up!

Lord: O.K. I will put her to death.

Tenzo: That's all right.

(Otsuta feels so mortified.)

Tsuta: It's you who plot this. You bear me a grudge for your failure at Benten Shrine,

and bring an action against me with the sash which you have plundered from me. Moreover you broke this precious cup, too, to drive me into a crime, and make me die by the lords sword, I see. For you are afraid of me for I know every thing ~~what~~ what you plot. I want to tell it to my lord.

However he can't listen me now in his present state of mind. So I will die with your plot in my heart. But I will revenge myself on you.

"She utters sadly"

(She greans regretfully. Then the poison take effect. She spits bloods and grasps at the air in pain with dreadful eyes full of grudge. But Tenzo watches her with mocking smile.)

Tenzo:

Oh, I wait you out as a ghost, for I have never seen a ghost except on the stage. So I want to master up my courage with your ghost. I expect you even this very night.

Lord:

Now I put you to death.

(He comes down on the ground and stand before Otsuta.)

Tsuta:

I have believed you are the only one who can see my heart among them all. It's my mistake. Since you don't believe me, I will revenge you, too, against my good will to you.

(She looks at him reproachfully. The lord straightens himself.)

Lord:

Oh, revenge me as you please.

But I will torture you to death for you bring disgrace on my name. Not only that but you lost my treasure. I hate you for all what you have done.

"He cuts on her shoulder."

"Again and again he uses his sword on Otsuta, driven her in great pain.

But at last she ends her painful life, like a flower which is blown away in the wind."

Go:

Oh, she ceases to breath.

Ten:

Is she? Let me see!

"As he sets her up."

(Tenzo sets her up. Otsuta stares in his eyes. Tenzo falls backward in great astonishment. Otsuta staggers to her feet. Tenzo tries to flee. Otsuta staggers after him. The lord draws her by her hair.)

"And ~~xxxx~~ cut her down into the well.)

(The lord looks into the well sadly.)

Lord: Though she got such a bad heart, I pity her now. Poor girl!

(He shakes his head and declares.)

No, hateful girl!

(He holds out the sword to Tenzo.

Tenzo cleans it with water and wipes it with towel.)

Go: O, it's raining. I have expected the clouds would clear up but now rain comes.

Tenzo: Now leave here and go back to your detached-room.

Lord: Yes, I will go through the garden.

"All the lights are blown out at once."

Go: Oh, the lights are blown out at once.

Tenzo: Strange!

"At that moment of their fear,"

(Some foot-men come out with raincoat and an umbrella for the lord and address themselves to the lord.)

Retainers: We are here to wait you.

Tenzo: Don't surprise us.

Retainers: We have brought the things for rain for our lord.

Tenzo: Oh, thank you very much for your trouble.

(Tenzo helps the lord to dress up with raincoat.
The foot-man arranges the sandals for him, and
spreads the umbrella for him.)

Lord: Oh, it has stopped raining.

Go: We can see the stars already.

Tenzo: Now, let's go;

Lord: Yes, let's go.

"At this moment something queer works
on them and they can't move."

Lord: Who is it that pulls me back by my sleeve?

Go: No body pulls you.

Tep: No body!

(At this moment a lantern hanged up on
the right is burnt down and in the smoke
Otsuta makes her appearance)

Lord: Oh, Tsuta!

Tenzo: Mrs. Tsuta? Where is she?

Lord: Behind you!

Tenzo: Eh?

(He falls backward. Otsuta disappears.

The lord sighs. Tenzo and Gedaiyu look around
uneasily.)

Go.: It's so strange with our lord.

Tenzo: Yes, that Tsuta is -----

(The lord prevents him)

Lord:

It was my illusion!

"But strange."

(He looks at the well.)

Wooden clappers.

----- Curtain falls.-----